

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 10. 1707.

I Should not touch again the ungrateful Subject of the Treatment, the late King *William* met with, were it not, that I find a little Room left there in the *Review* N°. 17. for some People to mistake me ; As therefore I would leave no Space for an ill Application of so nice a Text, I desire to be the first Corrector of my self, as I would have all wise Men be.

And first I must take Notice of an unhappy Mistake in the Printing that *Review*, which my Absence from the Press has occasion'd, *Viz.* That it was printed N°. 17. and should have been N°. 21. and the very Reading will direct the Eye to it—

It begins *I promis'd you in my last to go on a little further with this unhappy Subject, the Treatment of his late Majesty.* Now as this Promise is in the *Review* of N°. 20. and not in the N°. 16. 'tis plain the Paper was

design'd to be plac'd so, however the Printer came to misplace it— And this Error I must desire all those Gentlemen, that collect Volumes of this Paper, to observe both in their Reading and Binding.

And tho' this Mistake seems Trifling, yet it will appear the very unhappy Original of those Gentlemen's Thoughts, who think this Paper seems to level *Whig* and *Tory* in their ill Treatment of his Majesty, or ill serving their Country.

As for the latter, if any of them flatter themselves or their Party with extenuating their Barbarisms of that Kind, or their Treacheries to their Country under that weak Pretence, I desire they would not force me to draw up an Historical Scheme of the Differences of that Nature, and write a black List both of Names and Crimes, in which I should soon make them, both
odious

odious and contemptible in the Eyes of all honest People in the World.

But to wave that, unless farther provok'd, and leave those Gentlemen Room, as Heaven has given them Time, for Amendment, I desire to mark this essential Difference between the Parties; If on one side an ill Man has been trusted or employ'd, who has not discharg'd with that Fidelity and Candour he ought to do, in the Service of his Country, or who has not honour'd his Master and his Employment, it is a Misfortune to both, 'tis a Disaster, and there is Room to complain; but on the other side, 'tis the Nature of the very Party, it runs in the Blood of their Cause, 'tis natural to the very Principle, and must be expected from them.

A *Whig* may be false to the Nation, and abuse his Master's Bounty, rail at the Hand that rais'd him, and make Speeches, &c. And 'tis an unhappy Disaster, when it is so. But a *High-Flyer* must do it, he destroys his own Principle else, and ceases to belong to the Class he pretended to; 'tis natural to him to love a Satyr upon King *William*, and to bless the Horse, that threw him down; 'tis his very Foundation Principle, and he acts against Nature, if he does not pursue it.

When then I complain of a few, who prove to be call'd *Whigs*, into whose Hands when the King repos'd the Trust of the Nation, he was ill us'd and betray'd; let no *High-Flying* Zealot raise Comfort from that, some of these us'd him ill, your whole Party abus'd him; accidental Mischiefs from these cross'd and disappointed him, a constant Series of Treachery and Fraud from you laid wait for him on every occasion: With these 'twas an Accident, with you 'twas a Practice, you besieg'd him with Ingratitude, your Climate blew always with Storms of Railery and Reproach, your Mouths were always full of Curling and Bitterness, and you were ever casting the Venom of your Tongues and the Filth of your Passions in his Face.

His best Actions were the Subject of your Detraction and Envy, his Disasters your Mirth, his Sorrows your Song, his Death your Triumph, and the Nation's Loss your Joy.

What is the Dishonesty or Mismanagement of a few on the other side, to this? I could fill this Volume with the foul History of your prodigious Behaviour to the Man that sav'd you from *Papish* Bondage and *French* Power.

Have a few *Whigs* prov'd wrong——
Well, were there not always Hypocrites in GOD's Church? Did not *Judas* make a Speech against *Mary Magdalen's* wasting the Ointment? What can be inferr'd from this, to excuse a general Spirit of *Tory* Insult on that great Prince, all his Reign?

Nor can it be construed to suggest, that generally the *Whigs*, that Prince employ'd, betray'd him; 'tis true, some flew in his Face, wrote Lampoons upon him, and purchased the just Reproach of Ingratitude: But I shall have much wrong done me, if I am suspected so much as of insinuating that next to GOD's immediate Providence, it was any, but that Interest and Party too, that carry'd his Majesty thro' the inextricable Labyrinths of Faction, civil Feuds, Party Heats, personal Resentments, jarring Interests, declining Trade, dreadful Deficiencies, and constant Mismanagements and Disaster.

And to make this out, I dare say, I may divide all the principal Actions of that Reign into two Sorts, happy and unhappy; and we shall find not a Dram of *Tory* Counsel in the first, or *Whigish* Counsel in the last.

Where now is the *High-Flyer*, *Tory* or *Facobite*, that can challenge the least Hand in Reduction of the Coin, resettling the Bank, uniting the *East-India* Companies, forming Exchequer-Bills, restoring National Credit, or establishing the substantial Funds of the War; Things the general Support of the Nation, at their several Junctures, entirely depended upon, and which the Party always help'd backward, and perplex'd as much as possible.

Indeed, if we come to abortive Expeditions, Descents, *Turkey* Fleets, *Carthage* Squadrons, and such things; we shall find the Hand of *Joab* in them all; and as the Nation's Disgrace was their Satisfaction, they took always Care not to be wanting to be the Instruments.

I could descend to Persons also, and let you see, that when a few of the *Whigs*, whom I charge with the first Errors, and those of but mean Figure in Management too, are reckon'd up, the Party must blush to see, that the Number and Character of them are such, as will give them small Satisfaction in coming to a Balance, especially when the whole Weight of Management of that difficult Reign, generally speaking, lay on the Shoulders of that Party; and that even when his Majesty was forc'd to shift Hands, it was always to his Damage.

And what has been a true Test of this, like this one Observation, which I believe, will hold from the first of King *William's* Reign; that whenever you have had any National Good, any publick, extraordinary Act upon the Stage, the *High-Flying* Gentlemen have been the constant; and I may say almost the only Negatives; it would require a sorrowful Retrospect into those Times to examine, who oppos'd the Crown-ing King *William*, who voted against the Toleration, who oppos'd themselves to every good Vote for the Dispatch, and the settling the Funds in King *William's* Reign, whose Deficiency in Time as well as Value lost the Duke of *Savoy*, and procur'd all our Disasters.

To come nearer; who refus'd to relieve the *Dutch* in Time at the Beginning of this War, till *France* got Possession, of what all our Victories have not been able to dispossess him to this Hour; Who lost the Duke of *Bavaria*, and the King of *Portugal* in the Beginning of this last War; one of whom has cost so much Blood to reduce, and the other so much Treasure to reconcile, and both easie to be gain'd at first by a little Application and Disburse.

I care not to examine the Miscarriages of this Reign in its Beginning; but why has Her Majesty chang'd Hands, and dismiss'd all the Party, but that the *QUEEN* saw too plainly, what destructive Measures all their Principles led them to? And what do we owe all our Successes to since, but next to invincible Providence, Her Majesty's employing and entrusting the publick Affairs into the Hands of Men of Moderation, Men of

Counsel, and not Men of Precipitation, Party and Fury?

I hope, this will satisfy any Person of impartial Thinking, that the bringing *Whig* and *Tory* to a Level, is far from the Design of this Paper, as the thing is impracticable in its own Nature.

And indeed the *High-Flying* Gentlemen themselves have always taken Care by their known and constant Practice, to clear me of attempting this *Herculean* Labour, this *Aethiopian* Work. The Prodigy of their inconsistent Attempts on the Liberties of their Country; and Application to constant Mischiefs and Divisions, have so singled them out, and made them remarkable in the World, that they stand by themselves in these things, like a Beacon flaming upon a Hill, that can burn nothing but it self; they can injure no Body's Reputation but their own, and they take Care enough to make themselves singular and remarkable.

I hope, none will make any other Construction of all I have said, than the true, honest and single Design of defending the Memory of King *William*; which the ungrateful People, he had been bound to do, vilely attempt to reproach; and if I am more than ordinnaily warm on that Head, I claim to be excus'd from very uncommon Reason, respecting both publick Justice, as well as particular Obligation, which I can never forget.

WHEREAS, the Author of this Paper has for some time been out of England, and consequently is suppos'd not near enough to his Affairs, to receive such Letters as are wanted to be convey'd to him; These are to give Notice, that any Letters left as usual for him at Mr. Matthews will carefully be sent to him, and such Answers as are proper, shall be return'd by him with all speed, either in this Paper, or as shall be Directed.

Also that all such serious or diverting Subjects, whether Questions or otherwise, as any of the Ingenious Readers are pleas'd to send as formerly, shall be spoken to as usual, in the best manner the Author can do it, which he hopes shall be as acceptable as before.

ADVER-

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